

**ABSTRACT**

The invention features a method, apparatus, and computer program. The apparatus comprises a plurality of ports each adapted to receive Ethernet packets; and a data-link layer switch controller, when one of the Ethernet packets comprises an Internet protocol (IP) multicast packet comprising an IP multicast destination address and an IP source address, to  
5 select one or more of the ports based upon the IP multicast destination address and the IP source address; wherein the selected one or more ports transmit the Ethernet packet.